

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169144
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 169144

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR LOW ONLY FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW

REF: PRETORIA 3757

1. SECRETARY SAW, BUT WE DID NOT DISCUSS, YOUR MESSAGE FROM SALISBURY (MARIMBA NO. 1 OF 3 JULY). THE ROLE WHICH YOU PROPOSE FOR YOU AND JOHNNY SEEMS REASONABLE TO ME AND I WILL GET YOU HIS REACTION TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY). WHETHER EITHER SMITH OR NKOMO WILL OPEN UP ENOUGH FOR YOU AND JOHNNY TO DO ANY GOOD IS PROBLEMATIC. BOTH MAY BE GUN SHY AFTER THE PAST WEEK'S ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION. WHILE THERE ARE THE RISKS IN PROCEEDING AS YOU PROPOSE, THERE IS ALSO RISK IN IMMOBILISM.

2. I GATHER THAT THE FRIEND IS INSTRUCTED TO SUGGEST TO KAUNDA TONIGHT (IF THIS PHASE SEEMS TO BE AT AN END) THAT
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JOSHUA SHOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH YOU AND JOHNNY, THAT WOULD FIT IN WITH YOUR PROPOSAL AND HOPEFULLY YOU ALL CAN GET SOME WHERE WITH GAYLARD. BUT YOU WOULD BE QUITE CORRECT IN POINTING OUT TO HIM THAT (1) THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMETHING SERIOUS TO TALK ABOUT AND (2) THEY WILL HAVE TO MOVE OFF MARCH 3.

3. THERE WOULD NEED TO BE SUBSTANCE -- THE RIGHT KIND OF SUBSTANCE -- PLUS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR DESIRE TO MOVE TO ALL PARTIES TALKS. THUS YOU WOULD WANT, AS YOU SUGGEST, TO BE IN POSITION TO DISCUSS WHAT-EVER THEY PROPOSE. AS SUCH A PROCEDURE MOVED FORWARD WE WOULD HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FRONT LINE, ESPECIALLY NYERERE. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD HAVE TO BE WARY OF A SMITH-NKOMO ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAVE MUZOREWA OUT IN THE COLD. WE DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE POSITION OF SUPPORTING A SMITH-NKOMO DEAL WITH MUZOREWA CRYING FOUL, MUGABE ESCALATING AND NYERERE FURIOUS. WITH REGARD TO MUZOREWA, TOM CURTIS TOLD US THAT HE BELIEVES THE BISHOP COULD BE PERSUADED TO PULL OUT OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND TO CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TALKS. HE OFFERED TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK. YOU AND JOHNNY MIGHT KEEP THAT IN THE BACK OF YOUR MINDS.

4. SINCE WRITING THE FOREGOING, I HAVE SEEN YOUR THREE CABLES FROM PRETORIA (3755-7). IT OCCURS TO ME THAT YOUR WORKING AHEAD ON THE SECRET ALL PARTIES MEETING PROVIDES GOOD COVER FOR AN INTERMEDIARY ROLE BETWEEN SMITH AND NKOMO. CAN YOU AND JOHNNY SOMEHOW SOUND OUT MACHEL AND NYERERE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF PRIOR SMITH-NKOMO EXCHANGES? OR DO THE MUGABE AND PF UNITY ISSUES POSE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM?

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5. YOUR ASSESSMENT ON THE FOUR MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT IS SUPERB. TIME IS INDEED WORKING ON THE PF SIDE. VANCE

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